

April 2012



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Mark Your Calendar

TEDxYouth Des Moines Conference

April 19

Event showcasing youth speakers with innovative ideas worth spreading. The event is invitation-only, but the youth speakers' talks will be posted on the TEDxYouth Des Moines website.

Time: 9:00am–4:30pm

Location: Des Moines Playhouse

Questions or comments, email Amy Croll at amy@cyconcepts.org

Global Youth Service Day

April 20-22

Youth from around the world will participate in service projects to better their communities. The [Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service](#) provides a [participation manual](#) on their website.

Questions or comments, email Michael Henneberry at michael.henneberry@iowa.gov

SIYAC Applications Due

May 1

Applications from youth to serve on the [State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council](#) during the 2012-2014 term will receive priority consideration if submitted before May 1, 2012. An application can be found [here](#).

Questions or comments, email Renee Mallo at renee.mallo@iowa.gov

Risky Business

May 1

Training conference for youth and adults addressing critical youth issues and empowering them to make positive choices.

Time: 8:00am–5:00pm

Location: Iowa State University

Registration: by April 20

Questions or comments, go to <http://www.yss.ames.fia.us/>

Want your event in the next newsletter? Contact [Renée Mallo](#) with the date, location, and a brief description.

ICYD INSIDER

Youth Development News

Cedar Rapids Addresses Minority Education Concerns

A [Cedar Rapids community forum](#) sponsored by the African American Family Preservation and Resource Committee has prompted the community to begin addressing education related concerns. The concerns noted included keeping minority youth focused on their education and a local school system that appears to lack cultural responsiveness. The latter concern was heightened by the closing of a Cedar Rapids elementary school with a high minority and low-income student population.

In an effort to keep the community's youth more focused on education and away from destructive activities, a youth summit has been planned. The event will take place in Cedar Rapids on April 15th from 8:30am until 4:00pm at the Four Oaks Bridge, located at 2100 1st avenue.

Iowa Youth Participate in Nationwide “Kick Butts” Day

Students from the cities of Albia, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Dyersville, Glenwood, Keosauqua, Mount Ayr and Red Oak took part in activities to commemorate the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' 17th annual “[Kick Butts Day](#)” on March 21st. This event is also sponsored by the United Health foundation.

Participating Iowa students planned activities that were aimed at educating their peers and communities about health risks related to tobacco use and marketing strategies em-

ployed by tobacco companies that may be targeting children. Activities ranged from public demonstrations to a bus tour that encouraged young people to write letters to their legislators.

According to the [Eastern Iowa Health](#) newsletter, 17 percent of our state's high school students currently smoke. This newsletter also reports that each year tobacco use costs the state of Iowa 1.01 billion dollars and 4,400 lives. Tobacco prevention programs in our state received a 5 million dollar cut last year and a report by [Radio Iowa](#) notes that the American Heart Association is concerned about the potential impact of decreased funding on smoking rates in the state.

“Let’s Talk” Runaway Prevention Curriculum is Now Evidence-Based

[Let's Talk](#) is a free 14 module [curriculum](#) that has recently been evaluated by researchers at DePaul University. The researchers concluded that the curriculum increased youth participants' knowledge of life skills and resources for runaways by a statistically significant amount. More detailed information about the researchers' findings can be seen [here](#).

The curriculum's modules focus on building life skills, increasing awareness of resources for runaways and alternatives to running away, and encouraging youth to seek help from community entities if they have run away.

To submit an article or resource, email [Renée Mallo](#) with an internet link and description.

State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council Update

Several of the Council's members drafted position statements on legislation that could affect the youth of Iowa that were voted on during SIYAC's March 5th meeting. The Council also had a day on the hill, in which members spoke with Senate and House members to lobby for legislation they believe will benefit youth in the state of Iowa. One of the day's highlights was a meet & greet with Governor Branstad where the Governor responded to SIYAC members' questions about pertinent legislation. The Governor also asked Council members for their thoughts on Iowa's appeal to young people and how the state might retain more talented young people to combat the “[brain drain](#)”. SIYAC is charged with representing the hundreds of thousands of youth in our state and much of the Council's work led up to this day, in which SIYAC's members showed the impact that youth can have in Iowa's government.

—Quincy McGee, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council Vice Chair

<http://www.icyd.iowa.gov/>